

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – March 3, 2014 - The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today it will partner with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a new program designed to better coordinate care for clients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. The State Demonstration to Integrate Care for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees (Demonstration) will integrate and coordinate physical, behavioral and social health needs for Medicare-Medicaid clients. Colorado is one of 10 states to enter into an agreement with CMS to implement the Demonstration and is now eligible to receive up to \$12.5 million in first year funding to implement the program. The Department expects to enroll clients into this new initiative in the summer of 2014.

"The Department is dedicated to improving the care and health outcomes of Medicare-Medicaid clients across our state. We are pleased that the federal government recognizes Colorado as a leader in care coordination," said Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN, executive director. "This initiative will allow Colorado to achieve greater value for our most vulnerable clients who are on both Medicare and Medicaid."

The initiative builds on the infrastructure, resources and provider network found in the <u>Accountable Care Collaborative</u> (ACC) Program, which connects clients with providers, community and social services to help meet client needs.

This new partnership will advance the Department's commitment to improving the care and health outcomes for full benefit Medicare-Medicaid enrollees by providing access to coordinated care to an expected 48,000 Medicare-Medicaid clients through the ACC. More than 50 percent of Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries are over 65 years old, and more than 60 percent of beneficiaries have multiple, chronic health conditions. The ACC will provide a client-centered, coordinated approach to support the unique health care needs of these clients.

"Currently, the clients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid comprise 7 percent of our Medicaid enrollment, but account for 29 percent of the state's costs. These clients have significant health care needs which need to be coordinated much more effectively," said Suzanne Brennan, Colorado Medicaid director. "By coordinating care through the ACC, the Department expects these clients will have improved health outcomes while reducing costs."

<u>Click here</u> for more information on the Demonstration project.

**About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing**: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans who qualify. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the Department, please visit <u>Colorado.gov/hcpf</u>.